

Trade Notes...

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U.S. Deciduous Fruits Dominate Horticultural Exports to Taiwan

Taiwan, one of the largest markets for U.S. agricultural products since the 1970s, is currently the sixth largest market for U.S. horticultural exports. In fiscal year 2001, U.S. horticultural shipments to Taiwan were valued at \$355 million, 4 percent above exports in 2000. Fresh deciduous fruits, valued at nearly \$160 million, accounted for about 45 percent of total U.S. horticultural sales to Taiwan in 2001. The largest players in this category were apples, \$57 million, peaches and nectarines, \$51 million, table grapes, \$22 million, and cherries, \$15 million.

USDA Plans International Technology Conference

USDA will host a ministerial-level International Conference on Agricultural Science and Technology early next year. The conference will focus on the needs of developing countries in adopting new technologies and the role of partnerships in improving access to technologies. In Rome in June, at the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said that everyone benefits as more countries understand and share the benefits of scientific and technological innovation in agriculture. Biotechnology and other agricultural production, processing and information technologies have the potential to significantly boost farm yields, cut food waste, encourage environmentally sustainable production and offer new marketing opportunities for farmers. The conference agenda will cover access to technologies, scientific research, the relationship between regulatory practices and innovation, and the creation of partnerships to help developing countries adopt new technologies to increase agricultural productivity. The dates and location for the conference will be announced later this year.

World Coffee Production Forecast at Record Level

World coffee production in marketing year 2002/03 is forecast to reach a record 122.1 million bags, up 10 percent from the previous year. Brazil's crop in 2002/03 is forecast at a record 46.9 million bags, up 39 percent, or 13.2 million bags from the previous year. Mainly as a result of the large Brazilian crop, total supply in 2002/03 is forecast to reach 143.6 million bags, up nearly 6 percent over the 2001/02 level. Total supplies of coffee have not reached this level since 1991/92, when they reached 149.5 million bags. Brazil is expected to account for about 37 percent of total supplies in 2002/03, with Colombia's and Vietnam's share each forecast at 8 percent. In comparison, during 1991/92, Brazil's share of total supply was 34 percent, with Colombia at 16 percent and Vietnam at 15 percent.